BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2026 – 1:00 PM

BARRON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – VETERANS MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
335 EAST MONROE AVENUE - BARRON, WISCONSIN 54812

MINUTES

PRESENT: Patti Anderson, Scott Bachowski (Departed at 3:40PM), Karolyn Bartlett, Randy Cook, Sr., Mark Eby, Shelley Effertz, Carsten Ellison**,** Craig Fowler, Jim Gores (Departed at 3:54PM), Dana Heller, Dennis Jenkins, Kathy Krug, Audrey Kusilek, Fran Langman, Jeff Miller, Carol Moen, Gary Nelson, Louie Okey, Pete Olson, Dennis Sandmann, Pete Schneider, Bill Schradle, Craig Turcott, Diane Vaughn, Lauren Wentz, Stacey Wenzel (Departed at 3:54PM) and Brad Wolf.
APPEARING VIRTUALLY: None at this time.
ABSENT: Robert Anderson & Jamie McCready.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Okey called the meeting to order at 1:00PM.

ROLL CALL - PUBLIC NOTIFICATION: County Clerk Hodek took attendance and stated the County's compliance with Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws.

INVOCATION: Led by Supervisor Dana Heller.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited.

SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS): Administrator French informed the Supervisors of an upcoming Exploring Data Center Conference hosted by the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC) on September 29, 2026 in Eau Claire. All County Supervisors are encouraged to attend and will be reimbursed for attendance.

APPROVE AGENDA: Motion: (Olson/Cook) to approve. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (B. Anderson & McCready).

CONVENE AS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FOR DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE AI DATA CENTER MORATORIUM: Motion: (Cook/Bachowski) to allow the assembly to enter into a Committee of the Whole for discussion on a possible AI Data Center Moratorium Ordinance. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (B. Anderson & McCready). County Administrator Jeffrey French is appointed the Chair of the Committee of the Whole and County Clerk Hodek will take minutes for the meeting. Administrator French gave an overview of the Committee of the Whole meeting structure within the Parliamentary Procedures guidelines. Wisconsin Counties Association President Mark O'Connell gave a presentation regarding the roles of Counties in regards to AI data centers.

A break was taken at 2:44PM and the meeting reconvened at 2:54PM.

Attorney Rebecca Roeker from Attolles Law gave a presentation on various legal issues regarding AI data centers. O'Connell and Roeker answered questions from the Board allowing for various discussion amongst County Board Supervisors and County employees. **Motion: (Cook/P. Anderson)** to rise and report: the Committee of the Whole has completed its work and reports the following: The Committee of the Whole recommends the Moratorium Ordinance on AI data centers be placed upon the agenda for consideration at the

County Board meeting on October 19, 2026 at 5:00PM. Carried with 24 Yes and 5 Absent (B. Anderson, Bachowski, Gores, McCready & Wenzel). **Motion: (Fowler/Heller)** to end the Committee of the Whole session and return to Regular Session. Carried with 24 Yes and 5 Absent (B. Anderson, Bachowski, Gores, McCready & Wenzel).

Bachowski departed the meeting at 3:40PM.
Gores and Wenzel departed the meeting at 3:53PM.

Olson called a Point of Order asking if the AI data center moratorium ordinance would go directly to the Zoning Committee for consideration or if an Ad Hoc Committee would be formed to research the ordinance. Corporation Counsel Muench reviewed the next options the Board could take. Discussion. Cook asked the AI data center moratorium ordinance also be put on the upcoming September Executive Committee agenda for discussion. Administrator French and County Clerk Hodek noted this request.

Administrator French reported the Meeting of the Whole recommends the AI data center moratorium ordinance.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: Motion: (Bartlett/Turcott) to adopt the Committee of the Whole Report. Carried with 24 Yes and 5 Absent (B. Anderson, Bachowski, Gores, McCready & Wenzel).

ADJOURNMENT: By Unanimous Consent at 4:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, County Clerk

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD AT THE NEXT MEETING.